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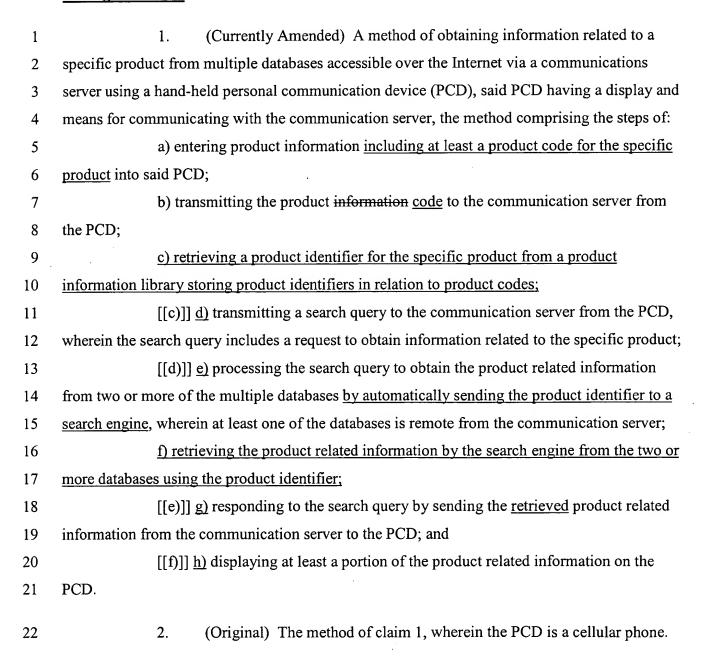Reply to Office Action of October 5, 2004

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of obtaining information related to a specific product from multiple databases accessible over the Internet via a communications server using a hand-held personal communication device (PCD), said PCD having a display and means for communicating with the communication server, the method comprising the steps of:

a) entering product information including at least a product code for the specific product into said PCD;

b) transmitting the product ~~information~~ code to the communication server from the PCD;

c) retrieving a product identifier for the specific product from a product information library storing product identifiers in relation to product codes;

[[c)]] d) transmitting a search query to the communication server from the PCD, wherein the search query includes a request to obtain information related to the specific product;

[[d)]] e) processing the search query to obtain the product related information from two or more of the multiple databases by automatically sending the product identifier to a search engine, wherein at least one of the databases is remote from the communication server;

f) retrieving the product related information by the search engine from the two or more databases using the product identifier;

[[e)]] g) responding to the search query by sending the retrieved product related information from the communication server to the PCD; and

[[f)]] h) displaying at least a portion of the product related information on the PCD.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the PCD is a cellular phone.

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1   3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the PCD includes an OCR

2   reader for reading product information, and wherein the step of entering product information

3   includes reading the product information using the OCR reader.

1   4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the PCD includes a scanning

2   mechanism for scanning a product code on the specific product, and wherein the step of entering

3   product information includes scanning the product code with the scanning mechanism.

1   5.   (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the product code is a bar code.

1   6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the PCD includes a keypad,

2   and wherein the step of entering product information includes manually entering the product

3   information using the keypad.

1   7.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein steps b) and [[c)]]

2   d) are performed at substantially the same time.

1   8.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein the product~~

2   ~~information includes a product code, wherein the communication server is communicably~~

3   ~~coupled to one or more product code libraries, each of said libraries storing product codes in~~

4   ~~relation to product identifiers, and wherein the method further includes the step of the~~

5   ~~communication server obtaining a product identifier for the specific product from one of the~~

6   ~~libraries.~~ <u>wherein the product information library includes a relational database communicably</u>

7   <u>coupled to the communication server over a network.</u>

1   9.   (Canceled)

1   10.   (Currently amended) The method of <u>claim 1</u> ~~claim 9~~, wherein the search

2   engine is resident on one of the communication server and a second server communicably

3   coupled to the communication server over the Internet.

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1   11.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the displayed product related

2   information includes one of competetive pricing information for multiple merchants, a product

3   review of the specific product and locations of merchants that sell the specific product.

1   12.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of the user

2   formulating a second query in response to the displayed product related information.

1   13.   (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the second query includes a

2   request to purchase the specific product from a specific merchant.

1   14.   (Currently Amended) A method of obtaining ~~competetive~~ <u>competitive</u>

2   pricing information for a specific product from multiple databases associated with different

3   merchants, said databases being accessible over the Internet via a communications server using a

4   hand-held personal communication device (PCD), said PCD having a display, a scanning

5   mechanism for scanning product codes, and means for communicating with the communication

6   server, the method comprising the steps of:

7   a) scanning a product code into said PCD, wherein the product code is located on

8   said specific product;

9   b) transmitting the product code to the communication server from the PCD;

10   <u>c) retrieving a product identifier for the specific product from a product</u>

11   <u>information library storing product identifiers in relation to product codes;</u>

12   [[c)]] <u>d)</u> transmitting a search query to the communication server from the PCD,

13   wherein the search query includes a request to obtain ~~competetive~~ <u>competitive</u> pricing

14   information for the specific product;

15   [[d)]] <u>e)</u> processing the search query to obtain the ~~competetive~~ <u>competitive</u> pricing

16   information from two or more of the multiple databases <u>by automatically sending the product</u>

17   <u>identifier to a search engine</u>, wherein at least one of the databases is remote from the

18   communication server;

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19   f) retrieving the competitive pricing information by the search engine from the

20   two or more databases using the product identifier;

21   [[e)]] g) responding to the search query by sending the ~~competetive~~ competitive

22   pricing information from the communication server to the PCD; and

23   [[f)]] h) displaying at least a portion of the ~~competetive~~ competitive pricing

24   information on the PCD.

1   15.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step

2   of the user formulating a second query in response to the displayed ~~competetive~~ competitive

3   pricing information wherein the second query includes a request to purchase the specific product

4   from a specific merchant.

1   16.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the product

2   information library includes a relational database communicably coupled to the communication

3   server over a network. ~~wherein the communication server is communicably coupled to one or~~

4   ~~more product code libraries, each of said libraries storing product codes in relation to product~~

5   ~~identifiers, wherein the method further includes the step of the communication server obtaining a~~

6   ~~product identifier for the specific product from one of the libraries.~~

1   17.   (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the PCD is a cellular phone.

1   18.   (Currently amended) [[An]] A communication system for obtaining

2   information related to a specific product from multiple databases accessible over the Internet, the

3   system comprising:

4   a remote communication server communicably coupled over the Internet with the

5   multiple databases; and

6   a hand-held personal communication device (PCD), including:

7   an input mechanism for entering product information;

8   a keypad for manually entering alphanumeric information;

9   a display for displaying a user interface;

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10   communication means for communicating with the remote

11   communication server;

12   wherein when a user desires to obtain information related to a specific product,

13 the user enters product information _including at least a product code_ associated with the specific

14 product using the input mechanism of the PCD and enters a search query requesting information

15 related to the specific product, wherein the PCD _retrieves a product identifier for the specific_

16 _product from a product information library storing product identifiers in relation to product_

17 _codes,_ communicates the product ~~information~~ _identifier_ and the query to the remote

18 communication server via the communication means, wherein the remote server processes the

19 query, searches two or more of the multiple databases to obtain the requested information and

20 returns the requested information to the PCD.

1   19.   (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the input mechanism includes

2 one of an OCR reader and a bar code scanner.

1   20.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 18, _wherein the product_

2 _information library includes a relational database communicably coupled to the communication_

3 _server over a network._ ~~wherein the product information includes a product code, further~~

4 ~~comprising one or more product code libraries communicably coupled to the communication~~

5 ~~server, wherein when the communication server receives the product code form the PCD, the~~

6 ~~server sends the product code to one of the libraries, wherein the library returns a product~~

7 ~~identifier associated with the product code, and wherein the communication server processes the~~

8 ~~query using the product identifier.~~

1   21.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the requested

2 information includes one of ~~competetive~~ _competitive_ pricing information for the specific product

3 from multiple merchants, product review information for the specific product and locations of

4 merchants that sell the specific product.

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1   22.   (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the PCD is a cellular phone, a

2   nd wherein the communication means includes a cellular transceiver.

1   23.   (Currently Amended) A method of obtaining information related to a

2   specific product from multiple databases accessible over the Internet via a communications

3   server using a cellular phone having a display and means for communicating with the

4   communication server, the method comprising the steps of:

5   a) entering product information including at least a product code into the cellular

6   phone using one of a bar code scanner and an OCR reader integrated in the cellular phone;

7   b) transmitting the product ~~information~~ code to the communication server from

8   the cellular phone;

9   c) retrieving a product identifier for the specific product from a product

10   information library storing product identifiers in relation to product codes;

11   [[c)]] d) transmitting a search query to the communication server from the cellular

12   phone, wherein the search query includes a request to obtain information related to the specific

13   product;

14   [[d)]] e) processing the search query to obtain the product related information

15   from two or more of the multiple databases by automatically sending the product identifier to a

16   search engine, wherein at least one of the databases is remote from the communication server;

17   f) retrieving the product related information by the search engine from the two or

18   more databases using the product identifier;

19   [[e)]] g) responding to the search query by sending the retrieved product related

20   information from the communication server to the cellular phone; and

21   [[f)]] h) displaying at least a portion of the product related information on the

22   cellular phone display.

1   24.   (Previously Presented) A method of obtaining personal information

2   related to a specific product from a database accessible over the Internet via a communications

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3 server using a hand-held personal communication device (PCD), said PCD having a display and

4 means for communicating with the communication server, the method comprising the steps of:

5   a) entering product information for a product into said PCD by a user;

6   b) transmitting the product information to the communication server from the

7 PCD;

8   c) transmitting a search query to the communication server from the PCD,

9 wherein the search query includes a request to obtain personal information related to the specific

10 product;

11   d) processing the search query to obtain the product related personal information

12 from the database;

13   e) responding to the search query by sending the product related personal

14 information from the communication server to the PCD; and

15   f) displaying at least a portion of the product related personal information on the

16 PCD.

1   25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the personal

2 information includes a number of times the product was purchased by the user.

    26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the

multiple databases from which product related information is obtained includes product related

personal information stored in relation to a user identifier.